

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2635

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1885

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: BUSH CALL ON CHOU CH'U-YEH

1. MR. BUSH MORNING OCTOBER 31 PAID COURTESY CALL ON CHINESE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS VICE PRESIDENT CHOU CH'U-YEH. CHOU DESCRIBED HIS INSTITUTE AS AN ASSOCIATION OF 400-500 INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT CHINA WITH AN INTEREST IN FOREIGN RELATIONS. HE STRESSED THE SMALL SIZE OF THE PERMANENT STAFF IN PEKING AND THE GENERAL SCARCITY OF TRANSLATORS, CARS, HOTEL ROOMS AND OTHER FACILITIES, WHICH PREVENTS CPIFA FROM RECEIVING MORE DELEGATIONS. IN PARTICULAR, HE CITED EXPERIENCE OF LAST YEAR'S CODEL MAGNUSON WHEN AUTOMOBILES HAD TO BE DRIVEN DOWN FROM NANKING TO ACCOMMODATE THE DELEGATION IN WUHSI AND SOOCHOW.

2. IN THE CONTEXT OF U.S. AND CHINESE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HANDLE EXCHANGE DELEGATIONS, MR. BUSH IN A LOW-KEY MANNER EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS OVER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE CHINESE MIGHT IN FUTURE RELY MORE HEAVILY ON CERTAIN RECENTLY ESTABLISHED "FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATIONS" AS SPONSORS OF VISITING GROUPS. MR. BUSH MADE CLEAR HIS CONCERN THAT TOO CLOSE AN IDENTIFICATION OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WITH THE "FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATIONS" AT EXPENSE OF ESTABLISHED CHANNELS MIGHT WORK AGAINST THE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT WHICH THE POLICY OF BETTER RELATIONS WITH CHINA CURRENTLY ENJOYS AMONG ALL SECTIONS OF THE U.S. PUBLIC, SINCE THE "FRIENDSHIP" GROUPS ARE DEFINITELY ON

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THE MARGINS OF AMERICAN POLITICAL LIFE AND DON'T ENJOY EVEN

MINIMAL SUPPORT IN USA.

3. CHOU DECLINED COMMENT ON MR. BUSH'S REMARKS, SAYING SUCH MATTERS ARE NOT HIS DIRECT CONCERN. NEVERTHELESS, THE CHINESE NOTETAKER TOOK DOWN CAREFULLY EVERYTHING MR. BUSH HAD TO SAY ABOUT "FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATIONS" AND A FULL REPORT WILL PROBABLY BE MADE. JUST TO BE SURE, MR. BUSH INTENDS TO MAKE SIMILAR REMARKS IN HIS CALL ON THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES NOVEMBER 1.
BUSH

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